

Address by K.R. Sreenivasan at the Convocation of the University of Hyderabad

17 January 2009

Honorable Vice Chancellor Professor Hasnain, Honorable HRD Minister Arjun Singh, Honorable Minister of State, Distinguished Faculty Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I thank the various bodies of the University for the Honorary Degree just conferred upon me today. I take this occasion also to congratulate the students who have received their degrees at this convocation. In contrast to me, they have earned their degrees through hard work. I acknowledge mine as a call to continue high standards of academic excellence and personal integrity.

Amongst the universities in the country, the University of Hyderabad has high reputation because of the elevated accomplishment of its faculty, the freedom with which they are able to pursue their calling (including interdisciplinary research), the enlightened work-ethic that pervades the administrators, the faculty and the students. These are extraordinary achievements and the University could justly be proud of them.

There has never been a better time in the country to aspire for higher levels of distinction as a university. In this journey, the University of Hyderabad has to keep its eye constantly on building and fostering excellence, while being mindful of diversity: pursuing one or the other exclusively is easy but not as useful to a nation that needs many good people to solve the multitude of its problems. A culture of scholarship, curiosity to discover new things and a firm commitment to serve the community should be embedded irrevocably in the University's psyche. I feel optimistic that it will happen.

Once again, many thanks!